

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 00788 161644Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W
-----022980 161844Z /47

R 191139Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4813

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00788

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, SP, GW
SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON AMBASSADOR LOTHAR LAHN

REF: MADRID 00406

1. BONN'S A-375 OF DECEMBER 8, 1977, CONTAINED A BIO-
GRAPHIC REPORT ON AMBASSADOR LAHN. AN INFO COPY WAS SENT
TO MADRID. WE REPEAT THE TEXT OF THAT AIRGRAM BELOW.

2. IN A CONVERSATION AFTER BONN'S A-375 HAD BEEN SENT,
LAHN TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR HOW MUCH HE LOOKED
FORWARD TO WORKING WITH AMBASSADOR STABLER.

BEGIN TEXT OF AIRGRAM-

3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 22, 1977,
THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD GRANTED AGREEMENT FOR THE
APPOINTMENT OF DR. LOTHAR LAHN AS FRG AMBASSADOR.

4. LAHN HAS BEEN A VERY USEFUL AND OPEN CONTACT FOR THIS
EMBASSY OVER SEVERAL YEARS. HE HAS MET WITH SEVERAL
EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND HAS KEPT US POSTED ON SOME OF THE
MOST COMPLEX AND SENSITIVE MATTERS OF FRG POLICY ON
AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HE HAS VISITED THE US
SEVERAL TIMES AND APPEARS EAGER TO CONTINUE HIS FRIEND-
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SHIPS WITH USG OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR STABLER MAY EXPECT
THAT LAHN WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM SOON.

5. LAHN IS CONGENIAL AND DIRECT IN HIS APPROACH. HE
HAS SUFFERED FROM A THROAT AILMENT WHICH MAKES HIM SPEAK
IN A VERY LOW VOICE. HIS ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT. WE
UNDERSTAND HE SPEAKS GOOD SPANISH, HAVING SERVED IN

MADRID AND CHILE.

6. MRS. LAHN IS A FLORENTINE LADY. SHE IS WARM, FRIENDLY, AND GIVEN TO LENGTHY EXPOSITIONS ON HER FAVORITE TOPIC OF ARCHEOLOGY. SHE EXPECTS TO HAVE A FIELD DAY IN SPAIN AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DISCUSS HER DIGS WITH INTERESTED FRIENDS.

7. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. LAHN WAS BORN IN BRESLAU ON OCTOBER 24, 1921. HE STUDIED LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRESLAU UNTIL OCTOBER 1940, WHEN HE WAS DRAFTED INTO MILITARY SERVICE. CAPTURED IN MAY 1942, LAHN CONTINUED HIS LEGAL STUDIES AT THE PRISON CAMP SCHOOL IN ALBERTA. AFTER HIS REPATRIATION IN 1947, LAHN CONTINUED HIS STUDIES OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAMBURG. IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE PASSED THE FIRST OF THE TWO STATE EXAMINATIONS IN LAW REQUIRED OF APPLICANTS FOR THE FRG SENIOR LEGAL SERVICE.

8. IN 1949, DURING HIS PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING AT THE COURT OF APPEALS IN HAMM (NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA), LAHN EARNED A DOCTORATE IN LAW AT HAMBURG UNIVERSITY. TWO YEARS LATER, HE PASSED THE SECOND STATE EXAMINATION IN LAW. FROM 1951 TO 1952, HE WORKED IN THE CHANCELLERY OF THE STATE OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA.

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9. LAHN JOINED THE FRG FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1952. AFTER COMPLETING HIS TRAINING FOR THE SENIOR SERVICE, HE SERVED BRIEFLY WITH THE FRG CONSULATE GENERAL IN ZURICH (1954) AND WITH THE FRG EMBASSY TO THE HOLY SEE (1954-1956). LAHN WAS NEXT ASSIGNED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1956-1959), THE FRG EMBASSY IN MADRID (1959-1962), AND AS CHIEF OF THE DISARMAMENT SECTION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S POLITICAL DIVISION (1962-1966). HE WAS CHIEF OF THE FRG INTERESTS SECTION IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO DURING 1966-1969.

10. FOLLOWING A BRIEF ASSIGNMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTOR, LAHN HEADED THE EASTERN EUROPE SUBDIVISION OF THE POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE (1969-1971). HE SERVED AS FRG AMBASSADOR TO CHILE DURING 1971-1973. SINCE 1973, LAHN HAS BEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIVISION WHICH COVERS THE THIRD WORLD. END UNCLASSIFIED
STOESSEL

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